

CALFED CONJUNCTIVE USE PROGRAM WORKSHOP

SUMMARY NOTES

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
826 Sixth Street, Suite 7
Los Banos, California
May 21, 1997

A CALFED conjunctive use workshop was held at the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) office on May 21, 1997. The purposes of the workshop were to brief the SLDMWA member agencies on the status of CALFED's storage and conveyance program, including the conjunctive use outreach process, and to listen to concerns and comments from the member agencies regarding the implementation of conjunctive use projects.

The workshop was put on by Anthony Saracino, CALFED's conjunctive use outreach consultant, Stein Buer, CALFED's storage and conveyance program manager, and Carl Hauge, Chief Hydrogeologist with the Department of Water Resources. Mark Cowin, CALFED staff, also was present to answer questions during the discussion session. The workshop was attended by 21 people, which included representatives from the SLDMWA, the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. EPA and a consulting firm. A sign-in sheet for the workshop is attached.

The workshop began with a presentation by Stein Buer, who summarized the status of CALFED's program, with an emphasis on the storage and conveyance components. Anthony Saracino followed with a discussion of the outreach process and presented some of the preliminary principles being developed for the implementation of conjunctive use projects. Carl Hauge then discussed groundwater conditions in the San Joaquin Valley.

The presentations were followed by a question and answer session. The comments and questions received from the participants are summarized below:

- 1) We view conjunctive use and groundwater banking as favorable projects. However, we need somewhere to put the water and need additional data to evaluate potential sites. How can CALFED help with these needs?
- 2) If SLDMWA operates a conjunctive use project, we would not want that water taken out of CALFED's overall goal for providing additional water.

- 3) The rights of property owners need to be kept intact.
- 4) We would like to see more detail in CALFED's reports.
- 5) What will happen to the other agencies involved in water supply when CALFED makes its recommendations and begins to implement conjunctive use projects?
- 6) We hope that conjunctive use programs will not detract from storage facilities.
- 7) We hope that research into these programs continues beyond the CALFED process.
- 8) Keep up the good work.
- 9) Could conjunctive use be handled through the AB 3030 process? It is important to retain local control of conjunctive use projects.
- 10) In-lieu recharge should be considered.
- 11) How will a facilitated water transfer process impact groundwater, and what is CALFED doing to evaluate potential impacts?
- 12) Wildlife habitat issues need to be considered; there may be a way to increase ecosystem benefits through conjunctive use.
- 13) Any conjunctive use program needs to take into consideration small local programs, water quality impacts and domestic well impacts.

The workshop concluded with an agreement that SLDMWA would send a letter to CALFED requesting assistance in further researching and implementing conjunctive use projects for its member agencies.